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GENERAL

1. Lasting Soviet political concessions in Germany doubted--US Charge Durbrow doubts that lasting political concessions can be obtained from the USSR in Germany, although he shares Murphy's view on the desirability of fully exploiting the American reparations position (see Daily Summary of 17 October, item 1). Durbrow notes the Soviet policy of sacrificing an economic rather than a political position and the characteristic Soviet failure to implement US-Soviet political agreements concerning a third power. He fears a tactical maneuver designed to obtain US economic concessions by a temporary grant of political freedom.

EUROPE

2. USSR: Demobilization of "older" military personnel--US Military Attache Moscow comments that the full meaning of the Soviet decree demobilizing "older-aged soldiers" and the number of men affected have not yet been determined, but suggests that the decree may be a political maneuver timed to coincide with the opening of the UN meeting, or a measure designed to free additional skilled labor.

3. RUMANIA: US protest against Government's electoral preparations--The State Department has instructed US Representative Berry, in a note parallel to one to be presented by the British, to inform the Rumanian Government of the US belief that the Rumanian elections "may not be of a free and equitable character" nor result in the "choice of a Government responsive to the will of the people." The note specifies the following apparent violations of assurances given under the Moscow and Yalta agreements: restrictions on registration of opposition party members, their exclusion from supervision of the balloting, and denial to them of freedom of press, speech and assembly.

4. ITALY: Signing of revised armistice agreement urged--US Ambassador Dunn reports from Paris that Italian Ambassador Tarchiani plans to urge the Italian Government to sign the revised armistice agreement drafted by the CFM in May. Dunn recommends that US Embassy Rome be instructed to urge the Italian Government to conclude negotiations on the new armistice and the pending American civil affairs agreement because

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in the event of a peace treaty delay, Italy would be in a much better position financially and politically under a revised armistice.

US Charge Rome, however, reports that the Italian Government probably feels that no purpose would be served by reminding the public now of the armistice terms and by subscribing to a new document confirming Allied controls. An Italian Foreign Office official has also indicated that the signing of a new armistice at this time would have unfavorable political repercussions.

5. GREECE: MacVeagh urges Premier exert leadership- US Ambassador MacVeagh has stressed to Premier Tsaldaris the need for exerting such leadership as to dispel misunderstanding of Populist motives and to induce Sophoulis to enter the Government. MacVeagh recommended that the Premier state publicly that his position as head of the Parliamentary majority necessitates his calling upon other Party heads to join him in a broad Government which would frame a program capable of enlisting the support of all patriotic Greeks. MacVeagh stressed that Populist leadership should merely seek to bring the Parties together and not attempt to dictate the program. He advised the Premier to disassociate himself openly from Metaxism and Fascism and to give public assurance that his party stands for repression of lawlessness whether by the Left or the Right.

FAR EAST

6. CHINA: Chiang seeks minority parties in Government--The Generalissimo, in defining his policy regarding the truce negotiations to Ambassador Stuart, has declared that "every encouragement" should be given minority parties to take an "active share in preparation for and joining in the National Assembly."

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